

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman John Olver applauded Governor Deval Patrick's release of \$25.5 million in federal Recovery Act funding for eight western and central Massachusetts highway projects. These projects were among 33 projects, worth over \$170.9 million, the Patrick-Murray Administration will fund in its second round of highway investment under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Congressman John Olver, Chairman of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Committee, said, "The intent of the Recovery Act was to put people to work and improve the economy. Investing in transportation projects is one of the best ways of doing this. The release of these Recovery funds represents a sizeable investment in the economy, and infrastructure, of western and central Massachusetts. Nearly every community will benefit."

President Barack Obama signed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, into law on February 17, 2009. Within this bill include over \$120 billion for infrastructure and science, with \$7 billion for broadband, and \$78 billion in appropriations and tax credits for education and job training. Investments in energy, which total \$43 billion in direct funding, range from \$5 billion to weatherize homes to \$11 billion to modernize our electric grid.

To learn more about Massachusetts Recovery Plan and download a list of the second round projects visit: www.mass.gov/eot/recovery . For transportation news and updates visit EOT's blog at www.mass.gov/blog/transportation .

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